

2005 Accomplishments

E-Government Initiatives

E-government uses web-based technologies to improve services and communication between government and citizens. Information technology plays an important role in the services we provide to citizens.

The MCDOT website (<http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov>) is already home to more than 50 web-based services and applications. One-click access is available for a listing of road closures. Citizens can apply online for Maricopa County's Adopt-A-Highway program, report a missing or damaged sign, request a street sign, and obtain survey information. Consultants and contractors interested in doing business with MCDOT can apply online for inclusion in the Article 5 register. To date, over 500 consultants and over 500 contractors have applied. Maricopa County has instituted a new web-based service for job seekers at http://www.maricopa.gov/human_resources/job_query_form.asp.

Information about MCDOT's PM₁₀ dirt road paving plan is also available. There is a variety of engineering documents and manuals, which can be downloaded via



the following: <http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/manuals/>.

Our website is frequently visited, averaging more than 22,000 visits per month. The site has enabled our citizens to communicate electronically with MCDOT, which has resulted in more than 300 individual e-mail inquiries in 2004 and over 1,200 since its development in 2001.



2005 Accomplishments (continued)

Dust Mitigation: Low Volume Road Paving

MCDOT's PM₁₀ paving project completed its fifth year and has paved more than 65 miles of roads since 2001. Due to this paving, more than 1,000 tons of particulates are removed from our air annually. This multi-year project is part of a larger, countywide plan to reduce air pollution. Since 1987, MCDOT has paved more than 80 miles of dirt roadways and we are on schedule to meet our current goal of paving an additional 10 miles of dirt roads in fiscal year 2005. MCDOT maintains nearly 469 miles of unpaved roads throughout the county. Dust suppression is a major concern as these

roads are contributing to airborne pollution in our dry desert community.

MCDOT recently completed a comprehensive low volume road study to identify and locate all unpaved roads in the County. MCDOT will begin to prioritize the roadway segments that may need to be paved in the future, both within and outside of the PM₁₀ non-attainment area. Paving the identified roadways will start in FY 2006 with an annual allocation of \$3.0 million from the MCDOT TIP.



Fig Springs Road



14th Street & Cloud Road



Tuthill Road & Carver Road



147th Avenue

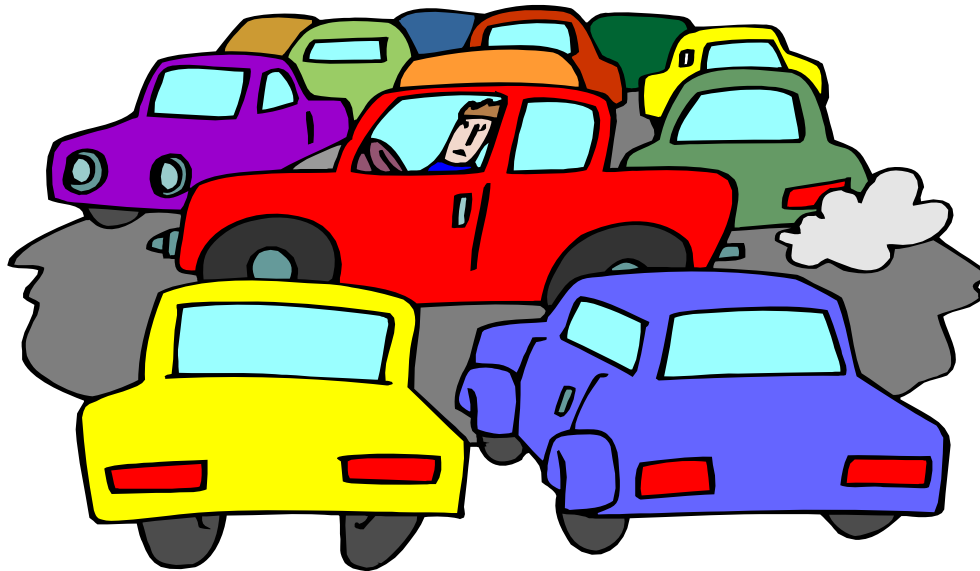
2005 Accomplishments (continued)

Safety

AZTech™ partnerships through MCDOT have taken the lead in establishing a first-of-its-kind regionally oriented, incident management augmentation service. The new group is called the Regional Emergency Action Coordinating Team (REACT). The team consists of traffic management specialists, who use trucks equipped with variable message signs and other equipment to provide traffic control at the roadway emergency scene. Since its inception in late FY 2001, the team has responded to more than 700 call-outs and has received many expressions of appreciation and support from the local police and fire departments.

Incident responders may not be aware of existing road closures or the affect of the traffic generated by the incident. As a consequence, few safety measures may be implemented at the accident scene.

REACT offers a timely and effective solution by providing the necessary traffic management in the area around the incident. Importantly, the presence of the REACT management professionals allows the responding law enforcement officials to concentrate on the accident investigation rather than traffic control.



2005 Accomplishments (continued)

AZTech Smart Corridors

MCDOT, in cooperation with state and local officials and private industries, has formed a unique partnership called AZTech™. The purpose of AZTech™ is to more closely integrate the management of the region's transportation systems through the use of state of the art technologies that give travelers up-to-the-minute traffic information. This program initiated in 1996 when Phoenix was one of four metropolitan areas selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation for this ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) Model Deployment Initiative. MCDOT served as the lead agency for the partnership.

Over the past nine years, AZTech™ has implemented ITS technologies in the Valley to ease congestion, alert drivers to delays, improve public transit operations and closely monitor traffic conditions. As a result, AZTech™ has developed an integrated network of traffic signals, computers, communication devices, closed circuit cameras and variable message signs to keep traffic moving across the Valley. The improved roadway systems, outfitted with these technologies, are often known as SMART (Systematically Managed Arterials) Corridors.

MCDOT's Traffic Management Center opened in 1999 and continues to be an integral part of the regional AZTech™ system. During fiscal year 2003, along with eight local government partners, MCDOT completed the design of several new "SMART Corridors" on the AZTech™ system. This work was followed by the construction of these corridors in fiscal



years 2003 and 2004. SMART Corridor infrastructure expands the AZTech™ Intelligent Transportation System through the installation of vehicle detection devices, closed circuit cameras for better traffic management and variable message signs for motorist traffic information.

During 2005 – in concert with the cities of Surprise and Peoria – MCDOT also completed the design of similar technology for a 6.5-mile portion of Bell Road in the northwest part of the Valley.



MCDOT Traffic Management Center

2005 Accomplishments (continued)

Public Involvement and Customer Service

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation strongly believes in public participation in all phases of planning and design. MCDOT listens and responds to the people who use the transportation systems in Maricopa County. Significant planning decisions are made only after receiving and studying the input of those who will be using, living, and working near the roadways.

Dozens of public meetings and events are held under the MCDOT "Right Roads" program each year, providing information and alternative plans to interested parties who share their insights and needs. (A "Right Road" is the right system provided at the right time for the right cost.) In addition to project-specific meetings, MCDOT also makes presentations to school groups, participates in regional public events and works with many community groups. We also study all aspects of new projects, such as their environmental impacts and how the project might be affected by future population growth.

Public input along the way is key to what we do and how we do it. But it doesn't stop there – with many of our projects we communicate from start to finish with our stakeholders through flyers, project newsletters, brochures, and our website (www.rightroads.org). We want your road to be a Right Road.

We also believe that everyone who contacts us—whether to get information or permits for work projects—should be treated promptly, courteously, and fairly.

Customer Services Mission:

The Customer Services Branch supports the Maricopa County Public Works agency mission by providing a level of service that incorporates the principles of quality.

We are responsible and trustworthy.

We remember that productivity and effort is important in serving all of our customers.

We continue to develop our talents and remain adaptable in our quest to exceed customer expectations.

We respond to each customer's request in an organized and proactive manner, thereby demonstrating a level of commitment and dependability that our customers can count on.



2005 Accomplishments (continued)

Partnerships

Intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) and other partnerships are an important part of MCDOT's strategy for implementing the Transportation System Plan. MCDOT seeks to develop partnerships with cities and towns, state and federal agencies, and private land developers on roadway and other projects where there is a common interest or shared jurisdiction.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is an important funding partner on projects involving the State Highway System. Also, each year several of MCDOT projects receive Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding. Partnerships with private developers are emerging as an important element of MCDOT's strategy to meet new demands for transportation infrastructure. Whether they are with public or private parties, project partnerships are the best and most efficient service to the citizens of Maricopa County. Agreements may involve project funding, collaborative design, future operation and maintenance or annexations.

Partnerships improve and promote projects by:

- Building ownerships in the project during the project development process,
- Clarifying the need, nature, scope and timing for the project,
- Ensuring all affected parties have input on project development,
- Ensuring the interests of all affected properties are reasonably and appropriately considered,
- Sharing and exchanging resources and property, leveraging financial resources,
- Clarifying jurisdiction,
- Clarifying responsibilities during and after project construction

On average, MCDOT completes 40-45 IGAs and other project agreements each year. A significant portion of the TIP is funded through cost-sharing with partners. MCDOT's current goal is to fund a minimum of 25% of its TIP funds through partnerships.

For fiscal year 2006, TIP capital costs are estimated at \$110.6 million, including \$29.3 million from partners, a 26.5% partnership rate. More than seventy percent of MCDOT's TIP projects currently programmed for construction in fiscal year 2006 involve partnerships. Agreements for half of these projects are already in place and the remainder are under development. Investment priorities established in the County's Transportation System Plan and MCDOT's cost-share policy provide guidance for the development of funding partnerships.



2005 Accomplishments (continued)

Partnerships

MCDOT is also committed to providing leadership for a regional transportation system. This commitment includes:

- Support of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Transportation Plan and its constituent projects;
- Planning, developing, constructing, and operating a seamless, regional system of county highways that serve as a regional travel network for all county residents, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries;
- Closer cooperation with local jurisdictions including the development of partnerships to deliver transportation projects that serve regional travel regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

MCDOT is committed to working in partnerships with local jurisdictions to ensure that the County's regional transportation goals are fully realized. Partnering occurs in planning, designing, constructing, and operating transportation projects that serve significant regional transportation needs, regardless of whether the project lies within incorporated or unincorporated Maricopa County.

For projects within incorporated areas, higher priority will be given to projects that serve a demonstrated, significant regional transportation need and to projects contained in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan.

The County may also participate financially in significant regional



transportation projects that lie entirely within an incorporated area provided:

- The County's expenditures are allowable under statutes governing Highway User Revenue Funds.
- The project is on a roadway established as a County Highway, or that forms a necessary or convenient connection to state routes.
- The project serves a significant regional transportation need as demonstrated by objective project scoring and evaluation techniques.
- The County's financial contribution is compatible with budgetary obligations.
- The County's cost-share is proportional to the regional benefit enjoyed by the citizens of Maricopa County (but shall not exceed 50% of the total project cost).
- The County's financial participation is documented in an intergovernmental agreement.

2005 Accomplishments (continued)

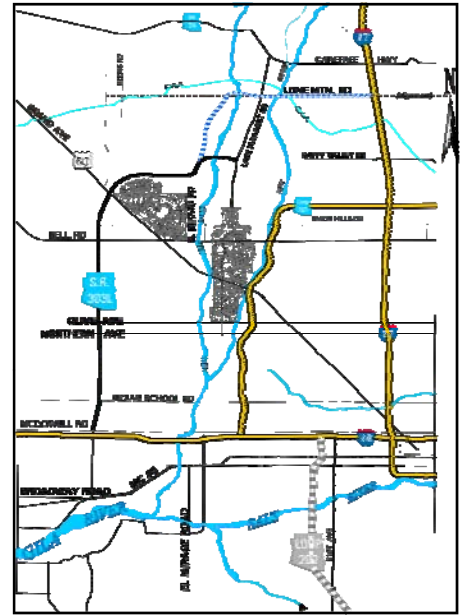
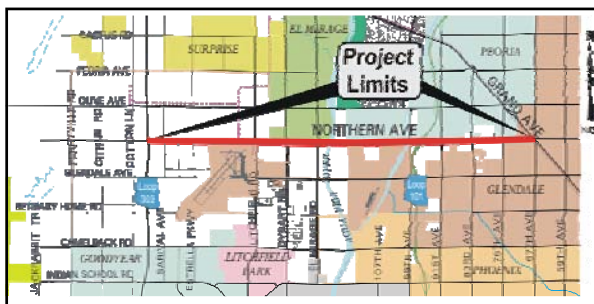
Partnerships

The Regional Transportation Plan

In November 2004 Maricopa County voters approved a twenty-year extension of the ½ cent regional transportation excise tax and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), developed by MAG. Under the RTP, a total of \$1.5 billion from regional revenue sources is allocated to the arterial roadway network. Simply on the basis of jurisdiction, MCDOT may have a role in more than 40 of the 63 arterial street projects identified in the twenty-year plan. Each project will involve a multi-jurisdictional project agreement including a separate project agreement with MAG.

Northern Avenue Parkway

One of the most significant arterial projects in the RTP is the Northern Avenue Parkway - a 12.5-mile long, controlled access roadway with grade separations at major intersections. This extends from Grand Avenue to Loop 303. It passes through the Cities of Glendale, Peoria, El Mirage and unincorporated portions of Maricopa County. This corridor also affects ADOT and Luke Air Force Base. MCDOT and the other participating jurisdictions are currently working together to develop a partnership for implementing this project.



Loop 303

Partnerships with ADOT, several municipalities and private developers have played a key role in the preservation of the Loop 303 corridor and the construction of the interim roadway. Originally part of the Regional Freeway System Plan, Loop 303 was deleted from the freeway program in 1995, when the State Transportation board declared its intent to abandon the route entirely. MCDOT recognized the importance of this route as a future regional transportation corridor that needed to be preserved and in 2000, ADOT and MCDOT finalized an agreement. Under this agreement ADOT retained Loop 303 as a State Route while MCDOT constructed and operated an interim roadway that could be expanded, as needed, or eventually upgraded to a freeway. With voter approval of the ½ cent regional transportation excise tax and MAG's Regional Transportation Plan, Loop 303 was placed back on the freeway system plan and will be transferred back to ADOT in 2006.

2005 Accomplishments (continued)

Partnerships

While under MCDOT's stewardship:

- The existing Loop 303 right-of-way was prevented from reverting back to the landowners and new right-of-way was acquired from Grand Avenue to Lake Pleasant Road.
- A new four-lane divided roadway was constructed from Clearview Boulevard to Grand Avenue, and from Grand Avenue to Lake Pleasant Road.
- Several bridges were constructed in the Loop 303 corridor including Patriots Bridge over Grand Avenue and a new crossing of the Agua Fria River.
- Loop 303 was widened and realigned from McDowell Road to Indian School Road.
- Traffic signals were installed at several key intersections.
- Planning studies were conducted to identify corridors for extending the 303 to the north and south.

Under MCDOT's management, partnerships with ADOT, Goodyear, Peoria, Surprise, and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County were secured and are essential to various aspects of design, maintenance, construction, and operation of the interim roadway.

Under key agreements with Victory Land Investments and Shea/Sunbelt Holdings, private sector partners made substantial contributions that provided for an accelerated construction schedule and expanded the Loop 303 project to address needs arising from new housing development in the area.



Ellsworth Road

MCDOT, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the City of Mesa concluded a series of agreements in 2000 that will serve as the foundation for a combined \$28.8 million project for roadway and drainage improvements on Ellsworth Road between Germann Road and Elliot Road. Participation by all three partners was essential to both the roadway and drainage components of the project. Construction is currently underway.

Gilbert Road from McDowell Road to SR 87

MCDOT has worked closely for several years with ADOT, the City of Mesa, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, the Maricopa Association of Governments, the Salt River Project, and the Federal Highway Administration to forge a partnership for the improvement of Gilbert Road from McDowell Road to SR 87. The project partners have persevered to overcome a series of funding and construction issues that were highly unlikely to be resolved by separate, independent efforts. The project involves a combination of federal, state and local funding sources. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2005.